

Board Update *June 2007*

Students urge colleges, universities to help create a college-bound culture in state's public schools

Colleges and universities need to take a more active role helping middle and high school students plan for, participate and succeed in higher education, student panelists told the Higher Education Coordinating Board at its May meeting.

Too many high school students who are capable of earning college degrees do not prepare for or participate in postsecondary education because the state's public schools lack the resources to provide adequate pre-college counseling, the students said.

Absent in high school classrooms

The state's four-year institutions are noticeably absent in high school classrooms.

Too few campus tours are offered and high school teachers and counselors are under-informed about scholarships, admission requirements, degree planning and other vital information, the students said.

Keiko Weir, a junior at Todd Beamer High School in Federal Way, and Rob Muilenburg, a junior at the University of Washington Seattle, said the problem of inadequate college preparation affects more than two-thirds of high school students.

"The greatest predictor of college attendance and success remains whether one's parents earned degrees," Muilenburg said.

"...if we want to involve more students in college in the future, we need to be focusing on first-generation college students today."

- Rob Muilenburg, UW junior

"Consequently if we want to involve more students in college in the future, we need to be focusing on first-generation students today."

Students who plan to attend college wind up getting most of their information either from friends, family or individual institutional Web sites, Weir and Muilenburg said.

The lack of centralized scholarship information also hinders students who are attempting to make a decision about which college they might be able to afford.

More early involvement needed

Middle and high school students need to learn more about college much earlier – about how to prepare for college and what to expect when they make the transition, the students said.

Colleges and universities should also consider conducting regular on-site visits to high school classrooms to help students learn more about how colleges work, what will be expected of them, how they can access financial aid and other fundamentals.

More coordination with local school districts is needed to conduct these 'teaching' sessions.

Teaching and learning

The board also heard reports from three panelists involved in programs to improve teaching and learning in math and English in Washington. Substantial progress is being made in math and science education and learning, participants reported.

Panel members were Loyce Adams, professor of applied mathematics at the University of Washington; Greg Benner, assistant professor, University of Washington Tacoma education program; and the SBCTC's William S. Moore, policy associate, assessment, teaching and learning. Moore coordinates the Transition Mathematics Project.

Transition Math Project

The Transition Mathematics Project, a K-16 public-private partnership, focuses on improving math readiness for college-bound students in Washington.

"Nationally, people have been re-thinking the idea of college readiness... what it means to be prepared," Moore said. "There is a growing belief that all high school students need to be ready for college, and yet our systems are disconnected. In some ways, we are our own worst enemies."

Building and sustaining high school/college partnerships is a key challenge for the program, Moore said.

[More on Transition Math Project](#)

UW's GK-12 program

The University of Washington's GK-12 Program, funded by the National Science Foundation since 1998, annually sends eight to 12 graduate students in math and science to assist elementary and middle school teachers with math instruction.

Each fellow is partnered with two or three teachers for the entire school

year at one school. The fellows work in all classrooms during scheduled math times. The program goal is school-wide change in mathematics.

The NSF-funded grant program is being conducted at 100+ colleges and universities nationwide. This year the fellows worked at least 12 hours per week at Leschi and Emerson Elementary schools in Seattle.

[More on GK-12 Program](#)

Building Essential Reading Skills (BERS) at UW Tacoma

Greg Benner of the University of Washington Tacoma, has developed a program to help middle school teachers and staff screen, diagnose, monitor progress, and measure outcomes in reading.

The program provides instruction in the application and sustained use of scientifically based reading instruction techniques. It features a three-tiered response-to-intervention system to address the literacy needs of all students.

Benner said about 15 percent of all middle school students suffer from either moderate or severe reading disabilities. The program helps identify these students early and provides intensive individual and group strategies to improve reading skills.

1. Students with severe reading problems receive intensive individual intervention that is high-intensity and assessment-based.

2. Students with moderate reading problems receive targeted group interventions designed to increase reading efficiency rapidly.

3. Students in the normal range of reading performance receive preventative and proactive universal interventions.

[More on BERS Program](#)

New state law strengthens HECB oversight for state's degree-granting institutions

The Degree-granting Institutions Act protects students earning degrees in Washington institutions from fraud and substandard or deceptive activities.

The law empowers the HECB to review new private and existing out-of-state schools before they are allowed to offer coursework in Washington – and every two years once they are authorized.

The law does not apply to “exempt” schools, which include the state’s public colleges and universities, long-standing private institutions, and those that primarily offer religious training.

Over the last decade, Washington has experienced significant growth in the

number of schools and programs. In 2006, three new schools were approved, 18 authorizations were renewed, and 36 new programs and four new sites were approved.

The 52 institutions authorized to operate in Washington (not including the exempt schools) offer 334 programs of study – ranging from associate to doctoral degrees.

More than a third of the programs offer bachelor’s degrees, and another third are master’s degree programs. The most popular areas of study are business, social science, computer science, and education.

HECB staff are updating the degree-authorization rules. Changes would better protect students from unfair business practices, and also would enable the HECB to collect fees that more accurately reflect the cost of the application process.

Improving Teacher Quality Program awards more than \$1 million

Helping students succeed by helping educators educate is the goal of Washington’s “Improving Teacher Quality” program, said HECB staff who briefed the board at its May meeting.

The HECB administers the program, which annually awards more than \$1 million in federal grants to education partnerships for professional development activities.

The program funds collaborative programs among high-need school districts, schools of arts and sciences, and schools or colleges of education at public or private colleges or universities.

Various learning approaches, including coaching, college courses and

intensive summer institutes, are employed.

The 2007-08 funding cycle is underway, with 10 partnerships vying for a share of about \$1.2 million.

The projects would support middle and high school teachers, principals and paraprofessionals in high-need school districts across the state, with a focus on increasing student academic achievement.

Since 2003, the HECB has awarded more than \$4.5 million for 25 projects, providing professional development opportunities to more than 1,500 educators and ultimately serving tens of thousands of students.

HECB approves three new degree programs in nursing, accounting and biomedical regulatory affairs

The board approved three new degree programs during its May meeting.

The University of Washington will offer a Master of Science in Biomedical Regulatory Affairs through the UW School of Pharmacy.

Responding to student and community interest as well as the needs of the state's biotechnology and biomedical device industry, the new degree program will be the only one of its kind in the northwest, and one of very few in the country.

Offering courses on evenings and weekends, the program will target working adults in the early- to mid-stages of their careers. Program graduates will be able to oversee the design, development testing and production of drugs, biotechnology-derived therapeutics, or medical devices.

Western Washington University will offer a Master of Professional Accounting beginning fall 2007. Program participants will receive

master's-level preparation for occupations requiring CPA-qualified accounting graduates in the government, business and non-profit sectors.

The program responds to strong student and employer demand for occupations related to public accounting – both regionally and nationally.

Because the program includes the 225 quarter-credit hours required to take the CPA exam in Washington, graduates will be well positioned to compete for jobs requiring CPA certification.

Washington State University Spokane will offer a Ph.D. in Nursing beginning this summer. The program will enroll six students initially and up to 43 students within four years. Nearly half of the demand for additional healthcare training is in nursing.

The program will be offered through WSU's Intercollegiate College of Nursing (ICN), which offers bachelor's and master's degrees. The ICN has been preparing to add the doctoral program since 2000 as a way of increasing the availability of highly qualified teaching and research faculty.

Board to meet June 28 with Advisory Council at UW Bothell

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 28 at the University of Washington Bothell. The board will meet jointly with its Advisory Council to continue the discussion about the key issues facing higher education as it prepares the 2008 Strategic Master Plan Update for higher education.

Board to hold master plan retreat August 14-15 in Seattle

The board will hold a day-long master planning retreat August 14-15 in Seattle to review progress on the plan and provide direction for a final plan outline to be developed and shared with stakeholders and the public in September and October. A meeting site has not been finalized.

Bellevue Community College hosts May HECB meeting

Serving 35,000 students a year, Bellevue Community College is Washington's largest community college, and the third largest higher education institution in the state. BCC was established in 1965, and has served about a half million students in its first 40 years.

The college sends more transfer students to four-year universities than any other community college in Washington, while also offering career-related training in 90 fields. About 82 percent of the school's professional and technical graduates find jobs within nine months. The college also offers the largest and most diverse selection of Continuing Education courses in the state.

In January, BCC received final approval to begin offering its first bachelor's degree: a Bachelor of Applied Science in Radiation and Imaging Sciences. The degree program will be the only one of its kind in the state, and one of just a few in the nation.

Last fall, the Microsoft Corporation named the college an "IT Showcase School" – recognizing the college's leadership in preparing students for the digital age.



Geer Planetarium...a campus landmark

The program acknowledges colleges and universities for demonstrating leadership in information technology (IT) education and teaching. BCC is only the second school nationwide to receive the honor, joining the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Bellevue Community College also is home to Geer Planetarium – the first to be built in the Puget Sound region. A brainchild of Willard Geer, BCC's first physics instructor, the facility is used as a classroom for more than 1,400 BCC astronomy students and 1,600 elementary and middle school students each year.

However, Geer's only claim to fame isn't the domed building that bears his name. In the 1940s, Geer was one of the inventors of color television.

Higher Education Coordinating Board Members

Bill Grinstein

Seattle, Chair

Charley Bingham

Fox Island

Ethelda Burke

Tacoma

Ann Daley, Executive Director

Gene Colin

Seattle

Roberta Greene

Spokane

Earl Hale

Lacey

Jesus Hernandez

Wenatchee, Vice Chair

Betti Sheldon

Silverdale, Treasurer

Sam Smith

Seattle

Remaining 2007 Board and Advisory Council Meetings

	Full Board	Advisory Council	HECB Education Committee	HECB Fiscal Committee	HECB Financial Aid Committee
JUNE 28	UW Bothell	√	June 4 2 – 4 p.m. Seattle		June 14 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
JULY 26	Eastern Washington University		July 9 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		July 12 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
AUGUST 14/15	Seattle	Special Board Retreat			
SEPT. 27	WSU Tri-Cities	√	Sept. 10 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		Sept. 13 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
OCT. 25	WSU Vancouver		Oct. 8 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		Oct. 11 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
NOV. 15	Seattle Univ.	√	Nov. 7 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		Nov. 1 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
DEC. 13	State Investment Board		Nov. 26 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		Nov. 29 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB